4
EYE OPENING ARC
Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
STORY BY
RYUKISHI07
ART BY
YUTORI HOUJYOU

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
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CHAPTER 17

RIKA !?

NGH!

SLLLL (SSSSK)

CHAPTER 17: ROAR OF THE DEMON

GA (GRAB)

GUGU (STRUGGLE)

!?

PUSHUUUUU (PSSSHHH)

UWAAAAAHH!

GEHO (COUGH)

GEHO

HA (GASP)

MUZU (ITCH)

GA (KICK)

KEHO (COUGH)

KEHO

DOSA (THUD)

SU (REACH)

I NEVER THOUGHT RIKA WOULD COME ATTACK ME ON HER OWN!

GEHO

GEHO

BA (BOLT)

YOU WANT ME TO PULL EVERY-THING OUT!!?

WELL, YOU SURE SLIT OPEN YOUR OWN BELLY HERE!

BATSUN (ZAP)

SO HER GOAL IS TO GET THAT SYRINGE INTO ME?

TCH!

IT'LL EITHER KNOCK ME OUT OR KILL ME. THOSE ARE THE ONLY POSSI-BILITIES ...!

IN OTHER WORDS, WHATEVER THAT DRUG DOES, IT KICKS IN IMMEDI-ATELY.

IF SHE CAN JUST MANAGE TO INJECT ME, THAT WILL BE ENOUGH TO MAKE HER SURPRISE ATTACK A SUCCESS...

...THAT'S THE THOUGHT I CAN SEE FLITTING ACROSS HER MIND.

BUT MY STUN GUN IS A GAME-WINNING WEAPON TOO—IT CAN KNOCK OUT MY OPPONENT IN ONE BLOW!!

BACHI (CRACKLE)

COME ON, COME ON, HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO STAND AROUND IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S HOUSE!!?

IF YOU WON'T COME GET ME...

...I'LL COME TO YOU!!

BA (KICK)

BASA (FWOOSH)

BA (BAM)

GUN (CLUNGE)

!?

BAZUN (ZAP)

KA (FLASH)

DOSA (THUD)

KARAN (CLATTER)

NH...
NGH...

HA! YOU'RE PATHETIC! DID YOU THINK YOU COULD BEAT ME!?

PORO (SLIP)

GA (GRAB)

DOGA (WHAM)

DON'T TAKE ME SO LIGHTLY!!

LET'S TEST IT OUT ON YOU!!

SO JUST WHAT KIND OF DRUG IS IN HERE ...?

DOSU (SHINK)

GYUUUU (SHOOOM)

BIKU (TWITCH)

BIKU

ZURU (SLIDE)

NNGH ...!

...NH... NGH...

GAKU

GAKU (SHAKE)

HAAH!

SFX: GOKU (GULP)

GORO

HUFF!

HUFF!

GORO (ROLL)

HAA (PANT)
はあ
ZURL
ズル
ZURL (DRAG)
ズル
HAA
はあ
KOFF!
KOFF!
GARI
GARI (SCRATCH)
YORO (STAGGER)
よろ
HAA
はあ
HAA
はあ
GUGU (STRUGGLE)
ぐぐ

H...

HANYU ....

HA-NYU...

KOFF! ...HAAH...

GAKU

...NNGH. AGH...

NNH.

GAKU (SHAKE)

I GUESS I COULD WATCH AND SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR YOU TO KICK THE BUCKET!

THIS IS HILARIOUS! YOU'RE SO PATHETIC!

AH!

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA!

!?

YORO STAGGER

ヨロ

BUT THEN I'D LOSE ALL THE FUN OF TOR-TURING YOU.

WELL, THEN. SHALL WE TAKE THIS PARTY ELSE-WHERE? TO THE FUN AND DELIGHTFUL UNDERGROUND SAIGUDEN?

GU (GRAB)

HAA

はあ

HAA (PANT)

はあ

OH? YOU STILL HAVE THAT MUCH ENERGY LEFT?

ZU (ZZK)

UNFORTU-
NATELY
I MUST
DECLINE
YOUR
INVITATION...

...YOU
TORTURE
FIEND.

IT'S
ALL YOU
CAN DO
JUST TO
STAND
UP.

SO?
YOU'RE
GOING TO
RESIST ME
WITH THAT
ONE KNIFE,
STAGGERING
AROUND LIKE
THAT?

COMPARED TO
THE BLOODY
HISTORY OF
YOU THREE
FAMILIES,
WHAT I DO IS
NOTHING.

HEH! EXIT !?

GO AHEAD AND TRY!

HAA (PANT)

HAA

INDEED... AS YOU SAY, I'M AT MY LIMIT...

IF MY OTHER CHOICE IS TO BE TORTURED TO DEATH BY YOU, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE MY EXIT.

BACHIN CRACKLE

SU (SSK)

DAN (WHAM)

KURU (SPIN)

WELL, THEN.

GOOD-BYE, TORTURE FIEND!

ZUBU (SHINK)

BUO (WHOOSH)

ZURU (SLRK)

BICHA (SPLAT)

GA

BICHA

BICHA

GA

GA

GAH

YES...

BICHA

BICHA

BICHA

BICHA

SHE'S PERFORMING A DANCE...!

THE FINAL CEREMONIAL DANCE THAT THE DEMONS DEDICATE TO OYASHIRO-SAMA!!

GAKU

KARAN (CLATTER)

HAA

GAKU (SHAKE)

HAA (PANT)

PICHA SPLITCH

PICHA

GAKU

GAKU

HYUU (WHEEZE)

HYUU

GAKU

GOPO (GURGLE)

GUGU (STRETCH)

GU (GRIP)

JAK SHAKE

BARI

BARI

BARI (SCRATCH)

BAR

BAR

JAK TEAR

GLARING FANGLE

NII SMILE

KAKUN (SLUMP)

JIWA
(SEED)

KATAN (CLATTER)

GAKU (SHAKE)

GAKU

NN...

UHN...

UOOWA-OHHH!

AAAAAAH!

I WON!!

I WON!!

I BEAT THEM ALL!!

GEHA (CACKLE)

THAT'S RIGHT!

I DID IT!!

GEHA

I DEFEATED THE HEAD OF THE FURUDE FAMILY WHEN SHE CAME AFTER ME, AND SHE DIED A DEATH FIT FOR THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE THREE FAMILIES!!

THE HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY DIED FROM SHOCK!!

I'VE CAPTURED THE HEAD OF THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY!!

SFX: GU (CLENCH)

I'VE DESTROYED EVERYONE WHO DRAGGED SATOSHI-KUN INTO THE CURSE!!

EVERYONE!!

EVERY-ONE!!

I COULDN'T SAVE HIM.

WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE TO SAVE SATOSHI-KUN?

SHION SONOZAKI COULDN'T HAVE OFFERED ANY MORE HELP THAN I DID.

HE HAD NO POWER TO FIGHT AGAINST DESTINY.

SATOSHI-KUN WAS SO HELPLESS.

IF I COULD HAVE BEEN MION THAT DAY, LIKE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN!!

IF I HAD BEEN MION INSTEAD OF SHION!

IF I WERE MION, I COULD HAVE SAVED SATOSHI-KUN!!

THEN I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM.

THAT'S RIGHT! IT WAS HER!!

IT WAS SHION!!!

IT'S HER FAULT FOR MAKING THAT SELFISH REQUEST!!

THAT DAY, MION AND ONLY MION WAS GOING TO GET SEA BREAM SASHIMI.

SO I WANTED TO FEEL A LITTLE LIKE A BIG SISTER AND GIVE MY LITTLE SISTER WHAT SHE WANTED!

BUT SHION KEPT CRYING, "NO FAIR, NO FAIR!"

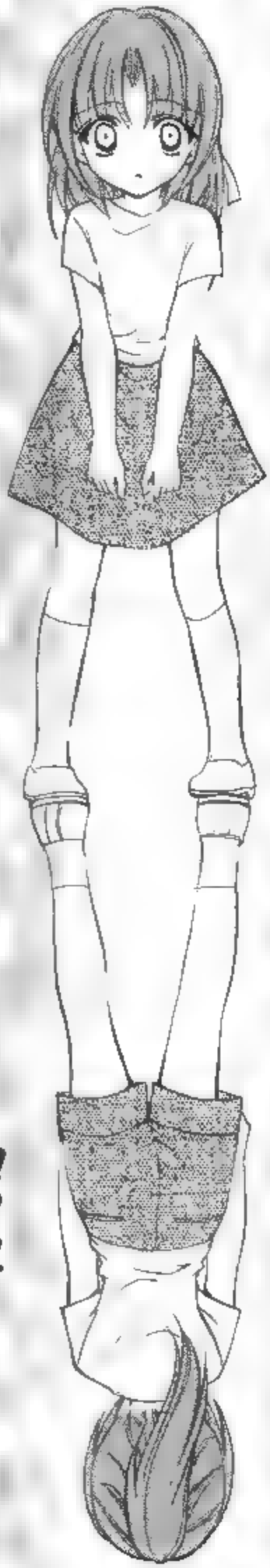
I FELT BAD FOR SHION ...!

BECAUSE MION'S THE ONE WHO GETS ALL THE GOOD THINGS!

ALL I DID WAS GIVE MY LITTLE SISTER SOME-THING SHE WANTED!!

...AND EVERY-THING IS STILL FLIPPED OVER TODAY...

BUT WHEN THE DAWN CAME, THE WORLD HAD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN...



UKKU...

UKKU (SOB)...

WHY DOES BATCHA HATE ME?

WHY?

WHY IS EVERYONE SO COLD TO ME?

WHY DOES EVERYONE TRY TO MAKE US DIFFERENT...?

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CHANGE OUR HAIR...

...AND TRADE CLOTHES...

SO WHY?

...AND NO ONE CAN TELL US APART...

CHAPTER 18

WE'RE TWINS. THERE'S NOTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT US.

CHAPTER 18: MION AND SHION

I WANT TO TRY IT.

I'VE NEVER HAD SEA BREAM SASHIMI.

ぐす

GUSU (SNIFFLE)

NO, FAIR!

THAT'S RIGHT... AND SO THAT DAY WAS NO DIFFERENT.

YOU GET ALL THE GOOD STUFF, MION...

WAAAHHH!

WAAAHHH!

I FELT BAD FOR SHION.

OKAY.

SO I LENT "MION" TO SHION.

PAA (BEAM)

ぱぁ

I'LL TRADE PLACES WITH YOU TODAY.

AND I WENT TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK WITH MOM AND DAD...

SHION WENT TO OUR RELATIVES' BANQUET WITH BATCHA.

WAIT!

WAIT!!

WAIT! WAIT, BATCHA!

THE ONE WITH THE DEMON IS MION. THE ONE WITHOUT IT IS SHION.

I'M MION!!

WHAT THE HECK!?

MOM!

MOM, YOU CAN TELL US APART, RIGHT?

TELL EVERYONE THAT I'M MION!

I'M MION!!

I'M MION!!

I'M MION!!

DON'T CALL ME SHION !!

YOU KNEW.

YOU KNEW WHAT OUR RELATIVES WERE GETTING TOGETHER FOR THAT NIGHT.

YOU KNEW IT WASN'T JUST A BANQUET!

...BUT SHE TREATED HER AS IF SHE DIDN'T EXIST.

ONI-BABA DIDN'T KILL SHION...

"IF TWO ARE BORN, DISPOSE OF THE EXCESS."

WAAAAHH!

WAAAAHH!

NORMALLY, YOU JUST LET IT GO, BUT ON THAT DAY YOU KEPT CRYING!!

YOU'RE LYING! YOU WERE NEVER AS ANNOYINGLY PERSISTENT AS YOU WERE THAT DAY!

KATA

KATA (TREMBLE)

I DIDN'T KNOW!

I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW!!

SO I WOULD TRADE WITH YOU SOME-TIMES, BUT IT ONLY MADE YOU MORE JEALOUS!!

(GIRI) (CLENCH)

YOU WERE ALWAYS JEALOUS!! YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WASN'T FAIR FOR MION TO GET EVERY-THING!!

AND YOU STOLE MION FROM ME!!

YOU FOUND OUT THE SIGNIFI-CANCE OF THAT NIGHT.

SFX SURU (SLIDE)

YOU'RE SHION, YOU IMPOS-TOR!!

I'M MION!!

TAKE YOUR HAIR DOWN! SHION!!

BA (BAH)

I AM MION SONO-ZAKI!!

I DON'T NEED THE DEMON TO BE MION!!

THE DEMON TATTOO WAS JUST A CODE, SO OTHER PEOPLE COULD TELL US APART!

YES ...

ONEE...

PASA (RUSTLE)

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU. I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR STEAL-ING MION FROM ME AND KILLING SATOSHI-KUN.

AS MION, THE HEIR TO THE SONOZAKI FAMILY DEMON, YOU WERE IN A POSITION TO SAVE SATOSHI-KUN.

SHION, YOU ARE GUILTY.

KA (GLARE)

I'LL KILL YOU IN A WAY THAT WILL SUFFICIENTLY AVENGE SATOSHI-KUN!!

I WILL KILL YOU!

THEN YOU CAN GO APOLOGIZE TO SATOSHI-KUN ON THE OTHER SIDE!!

I WILL SPEND EVERY DAY THINKING OF THE CRUELEST POSSIBLE WAY TO KILL YOU!!

AND AFTER I KILL YOU, I'LL TOSS YOU IN THE WELL WITH SATOSHI-KUN!

JIRIRIRI PRRING

JIRIRIRI

HELLO, SONOZAKI RESIDENCE.

I'm terribly sorry for calling you so late at night, but is Rika there?

OH... SHE STOPPED BY.

RIKU (WINCE)

Thank you for always being so kind. This is Hojo calling.

EHHH!? IS THAT SO?

NNGH.

ACTUALLY, WE MADE A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR DINNER TONIGHT, SO WE'RE ENTERTAINING RIKA-CHAN HERE.

PURURURL
BRRRING
PURURURL
KEIICHI! PHONE!
IT'S SONO-ZAKI-SAN.
チン：
CHIN (DING)
EH!?
YOU SHOULD COME, SATOKO ...
WE HAVE ENOUGH FOR YOU TOO.
RIKA-CHAN'S ALREADY EATEN.

...HELLO...?

Kei-chan? This is Shion. It looks like you're safe.

SAFE...? OF COURSE I'M SAFE.

Don't forget that we're in a situation where that's not necessarily the case.

Actually... I kind of feel like I'm being watched.

WHAT!?

THIS IS A BLUFF TO GIVE KEIICHI A GREATER SENSE OF IMMINENT DANGER.

IT MIGHT ONLY BE MY IMAGINATION, BUT YOU BE CAREFUL TOO, KEI-CHAN.

Yeah.

THE WAY HE'S ACTING, I GUESS NOTHING SUSPICIOUS HAS HAPPENED TO KEIICHI ALL DAY.

NOW THAT THE HEADS OF THE THREE FAMILIES HAVE ALL DISAPPEARED, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE CURSE SYSTEM HAS COLLAPSED.

IN THAT CASE, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT NO ONE WILL ATTACK KEIICHI.

THAT'S RIGHT. KEIICHI IS LIKE MY LITMUS PAPER.

I CAN FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT I'VE DESTROYED ALL MY ENEMIES BASED ON WHETHER OR NOT SOMEONE TAKES THE KEIICHI BAIT.

AND THAT WOULD MEAN THAT I HAVEN'T COMPLETED MY REVENGE.

BUT IF THERE WAS SOMEONE GOING AFTER KEIICHI, THEN THAT WOULD MEAN A PART OF THE SYSTEM STILL SURVIVES.

...AND EXPLAINED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE WHOLE VILLAGE OF HINAMIZAWA MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY.

...I STIRRED UP HIS FEAR OF MION AND THE THREE FAMILIES ...

NEXT, TO PUT KEIICHI EVEN MORE ON GUARD...

...THE VILLAGE CHIEF... YOU MEAN KIMIYOSHI-OJIICHAN?

SHION ISN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT KIMIYOSHI'S DISAPPEARANCE...

Ah, oh yeah. Apparently the village chief has gone missing.

...So, Kei-chan...

Do you have anything to talk about, Kei-chan?

HIKKU CHIO

...It's...my fault. It's because I told him.

STOP IT. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, KEI-CHAN...?

I...TOLD KIMIYOSHI-OJIICHAN! ABOUT GOING INSIDE THE SAIGUDEN!!

Why didn't you tell me sooner!? That's very important!!

I'M NOT SHAKEN UP IN THE SLIGHTEST. I'M ONLY ACTING LIKE I AM...

NO!! IT IS MY FAULT! I MEAN, IT HAP-PENED RIGHT AFTER I TOLD HIM!

HEY, CALM DOWN!!

IT'S A STRANGE SENSATION.

BUT THERE'S A DESIRE TO PRAY FOR HIS SAFETY BUDDING INSIDE ME.

No!!

WOULDN'T THEY HAVE ERASED YOU BEFORE ERASING THE VILLAGE CHIEF JUST BECAUSE YOU TALKED TO HIM!?

THEY KILLED HIM!!

HE DISAP-PEARED THE VERY NIGHT I TOLD HIM, AND HE SAID IT WOULD BE OKAY!!

THEY'RE PLANNING TO KILL US LAST!

THAT MUST BE WHAT THEY'RE TRYING TO DO!

THEY'LL KILL EVERY-ONE WE'RE CLOSE TO IN TURN...

...AND KILL US AFTER THEY'VE PUT US THROUGH SO MUCH SADNESS!

HUH ...?

WH... WHA...?

...AND KILL US AFTER PUTTING US THROUGH SO MUCH SADNESS ...

KILL EVERY-ONE WE'RE CLOSE TO IN TURN ...

HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE I TALKED TO HIM!! HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE KNEW!

HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE I OPENED UP TO HIM!!!

Sh... Shion, hey...!

THAT'S FANTASTIC.

TO THINK THERE WAS SUCH AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO TORMENT A SINGLE LIFE TO ITS VERY LIMITS.

AND THIS...

I'LL TAKE EVERYONE CLOSE TO YOU, MAKE YOU WATCH AS I TORTURE THEM TO DEATH, AND IN THE END, I'LL KILL YOU.

I AM NO LONGER HUMAN. I'M A DEMON.

ZOKU (CHILL)

ZOKU

A HUMAN WOULD NEVER THINK OF ANYTHING SO CRUEL!

...IS SOME-THING I CAN CARRY OUT IMMEDI-ATELY.

BAH (BAH)

I'M SORRY! I'M GONNA CALL RIKA-CHAN!

I OPENED UP TO SOMEONE TOO! TO RIKA-CHAN!!

R-RIKA-CHAN!!

EH...?

4-1

(CHIN (CHING)

I'VE ALREADY DISPOSED OF RIKA AND SATOKO'S BICYCLES AND SHOES.

HEH HEH HEH...

AH HA HA HA HA!

HEH... HEH HEH HEH HEH...

KEIICHI WAEBARA STRUGGLE IN WHATEVER WAY YOUR HEART LEADS YOU

I'LL DO THE INVESTIGATING FOR ME. SEE IF THERE'S ANYONE ELSE I NEED TO TAKE VENGEANCE ON!

RUN AROUND THE VILLAGE, TESTING WHETHER OR NOT THE CURSE WILL STRIKE.

I'LL GO CHECK THE MAIN HOUSE!

RIKA-CHAAAN! SATOKO-CHAAAN!

ARE YOU THERE!?

SATOKO DOESN'T HAVE ANY PARENTS EITHER. HER PARENTS FELL FROM A CLIFF THREE YEARS AGO BECAUSE OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

AND HER BROTHER SATOSHI-KUN IS GONE TOO.

THE MAIN HOUSE?

THE HOUSE WHERE THE FURUDES REALLY LIVE. BUT I HEAR IT'S BEEN LEFT EMPTY EVER SINCE HER PARENTS PASSED AWAY.

...I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE.

SA-TOSHI ...

"I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE"... ...HE SAYS.

...DON'T YOU KNOW WHOSE DESK IT REALLY IS!?

...DROOLING ON IT WHILE YOU TAKE NAPS...

...SPILLING YOUR LUNCH ALL OVER IT...

THAT DESK YOU'VE BEEN USING TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT AT SCHOOL ...

SINCE THEN, THOSE TWO HAVE LIVED TOGETHER IN THIS CABIN.

THEY SAY IT'S HARD LIVING AT THEIR OLD HOUSES. IT REMINDS THEM OF THEIR PARENTS ...

IT'S NOT KEIICHI'S FAULT IF HE DOESN'T KNOW...

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT, MION...? SATOSHI-KUN'S VERY EXISTENCE HAS BEEN ERASED.

DESPITE BEING A HOJO AND A FURUDE, THEY'VE BEEN BEST FRIENDS SINCE BEFORE THE DAM WAR.

THAT'S RIGHT. SATOKO AND RIKA ARE BEST FRIENDS.

IS IT BECAUSE RIKA FURUDE ARRANGED IT THAT WAY!?

SATOKO'S THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T MET WITH OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

SHE MAY HAVE ONLY BEEN AN ACTING HEAD, BUT SHION SHOULD HAVE HAD THAT SAME ABILITY!

IT'S MORTI-FYING !!

GIRI (GRIT)

TO THINK THAT LITTLE GIRL HAS THE POWER TO PROTECT HER BEST FRIENDS!!

JUST LIKE RIKA DEFENDED SATOKO...

RIKA-CHAN AND SATOKO SURE HAVE IT ROUGH.

KOH

SFX: PIKU (PERK)

SHE'S CURSED.

EH...?

...SHION SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEFEND SATOSHI-KUN!!

SATOKO HOJO. SHE'S A CURSED GIRL, WHO'S TAKEN OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE UPON HERSELF.

SHE'S A MEMBER OF THE CURSED HOJO FAMILY TOO...! BUT SATOSHI-KUN COULDN'T GAIN FORGIVE-NESS!

WHY SHOULD SATOKO BE THE ONLY ONE FORGIVEN!!?

SATOSHI-KUN, THE BOY WHO PROTECTED HER, DISAPPEARED ON HER BIRTHDAY!

I CAN'T FORGIVE HER, I CAN'T FORGIVE HER, I CAN'T FORGIVE HER!

THAT'S WHY SATOSHI-KUN DISAPPEARED!

SHE PUT ALL THAT PRESSURE ON SATOSHI-KUN!

SATOKO IS THE ONE WHO DESERVES THE CURSE MOST OF ALL!

THAT POOR SATOSHI-KUN!

IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, THEN SATOSHI-KUN AND I COULD BE LIVING HAPPILY TOGETHER, JUST LIKE RIKA AND SATOKO WERE!

THE POLICE DECIDED HE RAN AWAY FROM HOME, BUT SATOSHI-KUN WASN'T THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD RUN AWAY!

UN-APPRE-CIATED SATOSHI-KUN!!

SHE SHOULD HAVE DIED BY THE CURSE FIRST!

THEN SATOSHI-KUN WOULD STILL BE ALIVE! IF ONLY HE WERE ALIVE, I COULD DO ANYTHING IT TAKES TO SAVE HIM!

HE ALWAYS WORKED SO HARD FOR HIS SISTER!!

IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, SATOSHI-KUN WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO KILL HIS AUNT!

I CAN'T FORGIVE HER, I CAN'T FORGIVE HER, I CAN'T FORGIVE HER!

THERE IS CURRENTLY NO GOD IN HINAMIZAWA TO BRING DOWN THE CURSE!!

RIKA FURUDE IS DEAD.

SHE'S THE MOST SUIT-ABLE VICTIM FOR THE 1983 CURSE, ISN'T SHE?

I, MION SONOZAKI, HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY!!

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THE DECISION!!

THE REINCARNATION OF OYASHIRO-SAMA IS DEAD.

HELLO EVERYONE!

ARE WE STILL ALIVE?

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ZAWA

MUR-
DER-
ER...
MUR-
DER-
ER...!
MURDER-
ER...

NN?

ONEE !!

STOP!

OH, RIGHT.

SHION-SAN?

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

TO RIKA ...!?

HOW DARE YOU DO THIS TO EVERY-ONE...?

YOU... YOU'RE LYING! RIKA WOULD NEVER...!

RIKA BROUGHT HER FATE UPON HERSELF. SHE CAME HERE TO KILL ME, YOU KNOW.

I'M NOT SHION. I'M THE REAL MION.

THE ONE YOU THINK IS MION IS ACTUALLY SHION.

WH... WHAT...

...ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

CHAPTER 19: PROMISE

ONE!

STOP!!

STOP IT!

DON'T KILL SATOKO !!

THAT'S WHY SATOSHI-KUN WAS KILLED LIKE AN INSECT!!

YOU DIDN'T STOP WHEN IT WAS SATOSHI-KUN!

DO YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND YOUR CRIME NOW!!?

YOU LET HIM DIE!!

ONEE...

STOP...

YOU HAD TEN BILLION CHANCES TO SAVE SATOSHI-KUN, AND YOU THREW THEM ALL AWAY!

DOSU (STAB)

THAT IS YOUR CRIME!!

AAAH

STOP!!

STOP!!

AAAHHH!!!

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME!

YOU SCREAMING NOW? THAT'S JUST HOW I WAS A YEAR AGO!!

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LOUDLY YOU SCREAM! THOSE SCREAMS WON'T BE HEARD!

GYA!

GA (WHACK)

YOU CAN'T SAVE HER!

BUT PLEASE FORGIVE SATOKO!

ZA (ZSH)

GYA!

YOU CAN'T HELP HER!!

ZAN (SLASH)

TASTE THE PAIN OF BEING UNABLE TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS!!

ALL RIGHT, SHION.

IF YOU SAY "I'M SORRY" TEN THOUSAND TIMES, I'LL SPARE SATOKO.

STOP, NEE-SAN!!

STOP!

UGYAHHH

YOU DO HAVE A PATENT ON CRYING, DON'T YOU?

AHHHH UWAAH!

WHEN YOU COUNT UP TO EXACTLY TEN THOUSAND, I'LL FORGIVE HER.

I'M SOR-RY!

I'M SOR-RY!

I'M SOR-RY!

WILL YOUR NII-NII COME SAVE YOU IF YOU CRY?

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU ONLY HAD TO CRY FOR YOUR NII-NII!

NII-
NII.

NII-
NII.

ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS CRY, AND SATOSHI-KUN WOULD COME DEFEND YOU! BUT GUESS WHAT!

GA (SHNK)

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH PRESSURE THAT PUT ON SATOSHI-KUN!?

YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THAT CRIME, STARTING NOW.

BOTA (DRIP)

BOTA

GA

GA

HNGH!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HAVE YOU LOST THE FEELING IN YOUR RIGHT ARM ALREADY?

DOGA (THWACK)

AND I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU DO IT!!

POTA (DRIP)

THEN LET'S GO WITH YOUR LEFT ARM!!

GO (WHAM)

GUGU (GRIT)

HYUO (WHOOSH)

... YES ...

... ME TOO ...

BOTA

I...

...THOUGHT SO TOO...

I WAS SPOILED ...

I DROVE NII-NII TO THE EDGE...

I COULDN'T STOP CLINGING TO NII-NII.

...THAT'S WHY HE DISAP-PEARED.

ON THE DAY THAT NII-NII VANISHED ...

WELL, THAT IS A SURPRISE.

TO THINK, YOU REALIZED HOW GUILTY YOU WERE.

HA (PANT)

I'M SURE THAT NII-NII WILL COME BACK!

WHEN HE DOES, I'LL SHOW HIM THAT I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!

HAA

...

I...

...ALREADY KNEW.

I WON'T CRY TO NII-NII ANY-MORE!!

I'LL LET HIM KNOW THAT I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF NOW!

I WON'T HIDE BEHIND HIM!

GA (WHACK)

THAT WOULD BE GREAT IF HE CAME BACK!

HA HA !!

HA HA HA HA!

IF HE COMES BACK!

GH!

NII-NII WILL COME BACK!

UNTIL THEN... I CAN'T BE BEATEN !!

ZASHU (SLASH)

I KNOW HE WILL! I KNOW IT!!

DOBO (POUR)

I CAN'T BE BEAT-EN!!

THEN I'LL APOLOGIZE FOR BEING SUCH A BABY ALL THAT TIME!!

DOBO

GA

SO I'LL BEAR IT ALL BY MYSELF !!

IF I CRY, NII-NII WILL COME HERE!

Y... YOU LITTLE ...

I'LL NEVER RUN CRYING TO NII-NII AGAIN!

I WON'T CALL FOR HIM!

I WON'T CRY!

I WON'T SCREAM !!

GA

GA (WHACK)

NII-NII...

...YOU'RE WATCHING ME, RIGHT ...?

SEE HOW STRONG SATOKO IS NOW...?

I... I WON'T CRY...

...OVER A LITTLE THING LIKE THIS. I WON'T CALL FOR HELP...

...BECAUSE THIS IS NOWHERE NEAR ALL THE PAIN THAT YOU FELT...

...WHEN YOU GOT HURT FOR ME...

SULI (FWOO)

ピチャ
BICHA

ピチャ
BICHA
(SPLITCH)

HUFF

HUFF

POTA
(DRIP)

KAKUN
(SLUMP)

...CRUSH SATOKO'S STRENGTH...

I COULDN'T...

THE ONE WHO HAS NO INTENTION OF WAITING FOR HIS RETURN.

IT WAS THE ONE WHO DOESN'T THINK FOR A SECOND THAT SATOSHI-KUN WILL COME BACK.

IT WAS ME...

...WANTING TO SHOW HIM HOW TOUGH SHE'D BECOME...

SATOKO WAITED, BELIEVING IN THE DAY THAT SATOSHI-KUN WOULD COME BACK...

...WHO CONFIRMED THAT SHE HAD GAINED STRENGTH.

AND IT WASN'T SATOSHI-KUN...

SATOSHI-KUN!

FUWA
(FLOAT)

IT'S OKAY..

...YOU CAN CRY NOW.

AAAHHH!

SATOSHI-KUN...

SHION.

UWAAAAHHH!

...I THOUGHT I ASKED YOU TO DO SOMETHING.

EH?

WHETHER IT'S A CURSE OR A PLOT BY SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE...

...I WILL NOT DISAP-PEAR.

YOU... YOU WON'T DISAPPEAR, SATOSHI-KUN.

YOU MEAN...

...THE NIGHT BEFORE THE COTTON DRIFTING...?

MION...

TAKE CARE...

...OF SATOKO FOR ME.

DOKUN (BADUM)

SATOSHI-KUN...

GACH

...I... I...

GACHI (CHATTER)

GAKU

GAKU (SHAKE)

...LAST FAVOR...

...THE ONE...

...THAT SATOSHI-KUN WAS COUNTING ON ME FOR.

NOT BELIEVING IN SATOSHI-KUN'S RETURN...

...I FORGOT...

UNABLE TO WAIT FOR SATOSHI-KUN'S RETURN...

...I FILLED MYSELF WITH THE DEMON AND ACTED OUT.

WHAT ...

...AM I...?

WAAAAAHH!!

...WAS COUNTING ON ME!!

SATOKO HAD TO GET STRONGER.

AND I...

...HAD TO LOOK AFTER SATOKO IN SATOSHI-KUN'S PLACE.

SATOKO KEPT HER PROMISE.

THAT'S WHY, IN THE END, SATOSHI-KUN EMBRACED HER.

SATOSHI-KUN WAITED FOR SATOKO AND FOR ME.

BUT I COULDN'T KEEP THE PROMISE THAT I HAD TO FULFILL IN ORDER TO BE REUNITED WITH HIM.

I...

AND ME...?

PICHA

PICHA SPLITCH

...NEVER DID A THING TO KEEP MY PROMISE.

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I...

HAA (PANT)

SATO... KO...

I...

I...

GH...

NGH...

NGH...

SA... TOKO ...

UWAH!

AAAHHHH!

NGH!

UNNGH ...!

...WILL COME FOR ME.

NO ONE...

AAAHHHH!

AHH!

AAHH!

NGH…

NNH·

NGH· UNH

UNNGH…

HITA (STEP)

うた

ポルノ

THE THING STANDING STILL BEHIND ME.

I FINALLY REALIZE.

OH...

IT WASN'T SATOSHI-KUN...

BOU

...OR SOME CREEPY PRESENCE THAT WOULD SOMETIMES SCARE ME.

WAIT !!

IT WAS ... ME...

I DON'T LIKE THIS DARK PLACE!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I'M ABANDONED BY MYSELF TOO!?

SATOSHI-KUN'S ABAN-DONED ME!

I HATE IT!!

I HATE THIS FILTHY, BLOOD-STAINED PLACE!

IF MYSELF ABANDONS ME, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY FLESH!?

DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE!!

...HAVE ANYTHING LEFT.

I WON'T ...

NNH.

NGH...

GH...

...HN. HEH HEH ...

HEH HEH.

...OH, COME ON.

HEH!

EVEN I KNEW...

...FILLING THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...

ALL I'LL HAVE LEFT...

...WILL BE THE TWISTED, FILTHY DEMON.

...I'M ALREADY... A DEMON.

DEMONS DON'T FEEL SADNESS!

A DEMON'S HEART FEELS NO PAIN!

A DEMON DOESN'T NEED TO CRY!!

I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SO FUN TO HEAR PEOPLE SCREAM AND CRY!

AH-HA-HA! IT'S NOT SO BAD BEING A DEMON!

WAHAHAHA!

SHION! YOU CAN STOP COUNTING NOW! THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!

I'LL TEAR KEI-CHAN APART RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES!

ALL RIGHT!

OH RIGHT, SHION.

YOU LIKE KEI-CHAN, DON'T YOU?

BA (BAM)

THEN I'LL KILL YOU!

AND KILL MYSELF !!

AND THEN I'LL GO BACK TO THE LAND OF DEMONS!

THIS IS SHION.

HOW WAS RIKA-CHAMA?

AH HA HA HA HA HA!! HA!!

...I'M... ...A DEMON NOW...

I THINK THEY'VE BEEN KILLED.

...SO I WON'T MAKE ANY EXCUSES.

OH, KEI-CHAN... DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN...

They can't find her. And Satoko's disap-peared too...

KEIICHI

Hey Shion.

What do you think happened to Rika-chan and Satoko...?

UWA

AAAHHH!

AS LONG AS THEY'RE NOT USING THEM AS HOSTAGES, IT WOULD MAKE THE MOST SENSE TO KILL THEM ONCE THEY WERE DONE WITH THEM.

I THINK IT WOULD BE REALLY HARD TO KIDNAP SOMEONE AND KEEP THEM ALIVE.

U—

Uh...!

Hasn't the curse done enough!!?

Why!? The dam disputes ended a long time ago!

Why does someone in Hinamizawa have to die every year on the night of the Cotton Drifting!?

Tell me ...!

THAT WAY, THEY'VE CREATED A SYSTEM FOR ELIMINATING THE VILLAGE'S ENEMIES!

SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE IS USING OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE TO JUSTIFY REPEATEDLY KILLING AND CAUSING DISAPPEARANCES EVERY COTTON DRIFTING!

Then why Rika-chan and Satoko!?

They had nothing to do with the dam disputes!

So why !!?

Who the hell would do something like that !!?

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, KEI-CHAN.

Who !?

Who !?

AAAHHH!!

THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THESE PEOPLE TO BE CURSED, SO WHY!!?

...WAS KILLED BECAUSE I OPENED UP TO HIM...

I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THAT ACCURSED HOJO BOY.

AND MY ONE FRIEND, KIMIYOSHI-OJIICHAN...

IT'S HARD FOR ME TOO.

UKKU (HIC)

THERE'S NO ONE IN MY FAMILY I CAN DEPEND ON...

UKKU

...HIC

HIC

HIC

When... did you open up to him?

The village chief got back to the village right before the village meeting and disappeared right after!!

In other words!

UM...

WELL...

The village chief was at the hospital that day. He hadn't told anyone.

Did you know about the hospital, Shion?

EH?

There wasn't any time for you to open up to him!!

Shion went missing the day after the Cotton Drifting!

UM... WELL... ACTUALLY, I WAS AT THE VILLAGE MEETING TOO.

Shion!! You never saw the village chief!

HIC...

HIC...

HIC...

HEH...

HEH...

...HEH!

You never opened up to him!

HEH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

HEH ... HEH HEH ...

HURRY AND CHASE ME DOWN...

...HURRY AND...

...RELEASE ME...

I DID IT...

THAT'S RIGHT, IT WAS ME.

WELL DONE, KEI-CHAN.

CHAPTER 20

CHAPTER 20: CONFESSION

...RIKA-CHAN AND SATOKO CAME TO YOUR HOUSE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, DIDN'T THEY...?

MION ...

I DON'T REMEMBER. WHY DO YOU THINK SO ...?

YOU SAW RIKA-CHAN'S ROOM, DIDN'T YOU, MII-CHAN?

RENA'S DEDUCTION WAS FLAWLESS. HER CONFIDENCE COULD NOT BE SHAKEN. SHE HAD ME CORNERED.

RENA... YOU'RE QUITE THE DETECTIVE.

MION...! THE POLICE ALREADY SUSPECT YOU!

OOISHI-SAN'S MEN ARE WATCHING THIS HOUSE, READY TO BREAK IN AT ANY TIME.

IF YOU CAN DETERMINE THAT I AM NOT YOUR BEST FRIEND "MION" BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, THEN YOU WIN.

NOW, SEE IF YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHO I REALLY AM.

I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER, WITHOUT HIDING ANYTHING.

IT WOULD SEEM THERE ARE VERY MANY THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK ME.

THE DEMON WILL TRY TO CAPTURE KEIICHI, TO KILL HIM IN FRONT OF SHION.

A GAME OF MURDER, IN WHICH THE DEMON REPEATS A TRAGEDY, ALL IN THE NAME OF AVENGING SATOSHI-KUN.

LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM MION, THE HEIR TO THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

NOW, LET THE GAME BEGIN.

AH-HA-HA-HA! TO THINK I'D HAVE SUCH A BRILLIANT DETECTIVE SO CLOSE BY...!

YOU GOT ME, YOU GOT ME!

KEIICHI AND RENA WERE COMPLETELY TAKEN IN BY THE HISTORY OF ONIGAFUCHI VILLAGE.

THEY WERE PROBABLY LOOKING FOR A REASON TO EXPLAIN HOW THEIR FRIEND WENT MAD, SO I MADE ONE UP.

YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO SATISFY YOURSELVES.

ARE THEY FORCING THEMSELVES TO ACCEPT THAT THEIR BEST FRIEND COMMITTED SUCH CRIMES OVER SUCH A STUPID REASON?

...IT DOESN'T CHANGE A THING.

WHATEVER MY MOTIVE MAY BE...

A CRIMINAL.

A MURDERER.

I AM A DEMON.—

WE IN THE SONOZAKI FAMILY HAVE HAD A TRADITION FOR GENERATIONS OF INCLUDING THE CHARACTER FOR "DEMON" IN THE FAMILY HEADS' NAMES.

INHERITS THE "DEMON"?

THERE'S A DEMON IN THE "MI" IN MION...

...THAT IS OUR DEAREST WISH AS DESCENDANTS OF ONIGAFUCHI VILLAGE, AND THE DESTINY OF THE ONE WHO INHERITS THE "DEMON" OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

TO MAKE HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE INTO SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE REVERED LIKE ONIGAFUCHI VILLAGE WAS...

HA-HA... I THOUGHT SHE'D SAY THAT.

THANK YOU...

IT'S OKAY MII-CHAN. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW US.

PIKU (TWITCH)

AND IT'S NOT ONLY THE NAME. THE DEMON IS CARVED INTO MY BODY.

SU (TOUCH)

BUT, MII-CHAN— RIKA-CHAN AND SATOKO-CHAN... YOU KILLED THEM, DIDN'T YOU...?

DO YOU SERIOUSLY STILL BELIEVE I'M YOUR BEST FRIEND "MION"?

...BUT IT WASN'T THE DEMON WHO DID ANY OF IT. IT WAS MOST DEFINITELY MION SONOZAKI HERSELF.

I WON'T MAKE EXCUSES... THERE'S A DEMON LIVING INSIDE ME...

...BUT... YOU KILLED RIKA-CHAN AND SATOKO-CHAN, MII-CHAN...!

I'M NOT SAYING IT'S OKAY TO KILL OTHER PEOPLE ...

I'D LIKE YOU TO LISTEN TO ONE LAST SELFISH REQUEST.

RENA... IS THAT AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO? I THOUGHT IF ANYONE COULD, YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE WHO I REALLY AM.

MII-CHAN, WILL YOU TURN YOURSELF IN?

HEY, YOU AND SHION WERE CLOSE, WEREN'T YOU?

I THINK SHION LIKED YOU TOO, KEI-CHAN.

OH...

YOU COULDN'T MEASURE OUR RELATIONSHIP ON A SCALE ACCORDING TO HOW WELL WE GOT ALONG.

THAT'S WHAT WE WERE LIKE...

MY RIGHT AND LEFT HANDS? THEY'RE NOT SOMETHING YOU REALLY TALK ABOUT GETTING ALONG OR NOT...

I DON'T KNOW. DO YOU THINK YOUR RIGHT AND LEFT HANDS GET ALONG, KEI-CHAN?

FROM THE MOMENT WE WERE BORN, WE WERE TOGETHER. WE WERE A SET.

BUT NOW I DON'T KNOW IF I'M MION OR SHION ANYMORE.

WHO AM I?

I WAS MION. I WAS SHION. I SHOULD HAVE ACCEPTED THAT.

REALLY !?

SHION IS STILL ALIVE.

KUSHA (RUFFLE)

... WHATEVER I MAY SEE...

COME ON. I WANT YOU TO SEE ALL OF MY CRIMES.

BUT IT MIGHT BE THE MOST PAINFUL THING YOU'LL EVER SEE, KEI-CHAN.

...YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND, MION.

KEIICHI AND SATOSHI-KUN ARE SUPPOSED TO BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

IT DOESN'T ...

...FEEL GOOD AT ALL.

IT DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY TO HAVE HIS ROUGH HANDS PAT MY HEAD.

...WHY SHE LOVES HIM.

...I THINK I UNDER-STAND...

BUT...

KEIICHI, HOW MANY HINTS DO I HAVE TO GIVE YOU BEFORE YOU FIGURE OUT THAT I'M NOT YOUR BEST FRIEND?

THE DEMON THAT IS ME WATCHED THE ENTIRE TIME AS MION PERFORMED THE COTTON DRIFTING.

ME.

THERE WASN'T ANY AUDIENCE TO WATCH. BUT I PERFORMED THE COTTON DRIFTING BEAUTI-FULLY.

NO...I SUPPOSE THERE WAS ONE AUDIENCE MEMBER.

I KILLED THEM ALL RIGHT HERE.

IS IT THAT EASY FOR YOU TO MAKE THE "MION" IN YOUR HEARTS INTO A SERIAL KILLER?

YOU TWO ARE HER BEST FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?

DON'T YOU TRUST HER?

...YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THAT I'M NOT YOUR BEST FRIEND "MION;" "I'M SOMEONE ELSE WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE HER.

IF YOU COULD SINCERELY BELIEVE TO THE VERY END LIKE SATOKO DID...

TRY BELIEVING THAT THERE'S NO CHANCE YOUR BEST FRIEND WOULD BE A HOMICIDAL MANIAC!

SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE...

...YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN ME, SOMEONE WHO SO EASILY KILLED THE SATOSHI-KUN IN HER HEART, JUST LIKE WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW.

IF YOU CAN'T

KEI-CHAN ...

IT'S OKAY NOW.

IS THAT YOU, KEI-CHAN!?

KEI-CHAN ...!

SHION !?

KEI-CHAN ...

GAME OVER.

HITA (STEP)

HITA

SU (SS)

DON'T KILL ANY MORE PEOPLE!!

SHION! IT'S OVER NOW!

I'M THE ONE YOU HATE!! KILL ME!!

MION... YOU TELL HER TOO ...

NOOOO!! RUUUN!!

SU

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

DOSA' (THUD)

BATSUN (ZAP)

MY REVENGE FOR SATOSHI-KUN.

IT WAS SOMETHING SATOSHI-KUN NEVER WANTED FOR A SECOND.

IT WAS FOR MY OWN SELF-SATISFACTION.

STOP!

I CAN'T FACE SATOSHI-KUN ANYMORE...

ZURU (DRAG)

...SO I CAN AT LEAST CLOSE THE CURTAIN IN A WAY I APPROVE OF.

ZURU

NOW, I WILL COMPLETE MY REVENGE PLAY.

I WON'T ASK FOR ANYONE'S PITY.

I WON'T ACT LIKE A TRAGIC PRINCESS.

I WILL BECOME A MURDEROUS DEMON WITH ABSOLUTELY NO ROOM FOR PITY.

NOOOOOOO!

RELAX! I'LL MAKE SURE TO KILL YOU!

AFTER LETTING YOU HEAR PLENTY OF KEI-CHAN'S SCREAMS!!

NGH.

HEH HEH HEH.

M-MION-NEESAMA! PLEASE!

I DON'T CARE HOW YOU KILL ME, BUT PLEASE, SPARE KEI-CHAN!

GACHA

GACHA (KACHAK)

KOTSU

KOTSU (CLACK)

FINALLY AWAKE?

CUT IT OUT.

HUH? I'M MION.

KEI-CHAN !?

...ARE YOU...?

WHO ...

NO, YOU'RE NOT.

WHAT DO I DO? I ALREADY DECIDED IT WAS GAME OVER.

OKAY... IT'S ALL RIGHT...

...I'LL LISTEN TO HIM.

...SAVE THE GIRL WHO LOVED YOU.

NOW GUESS, KEI-CHAN...

...WHO AM I?

THEN IF I'M NOT MION...

A DEMON.

EH ?

WAIT, ARE YOU OKAY? HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY FROM FEAR?

YOU'RE NOT MION! GIVE BACK THE MION WHO I WAS WITH EARLIER!

QUIET, DEMON!!

I COULDN'T EVEN GET HIM TO THINK THAT I WAS SHION.

SO I'M NOT MION OR SHION.

AH HA HA HA HA!

... THAT'S NOT IT...

NO...

...AND...

KEIICHI PROTECTED THE MION IN HIS HEART...

...HE PROTECTED THE SHION IN HIS HEART TOO.

YOU COULDN'T BE MORE RIGHT!

I'M A DEMON, HUH?

SO I'M NOT MION OR SHION.

AH HA HA HA HA

THAT'S RIGHT. I LOST TO THE DEMON. HOW DID YOU KNOW?

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT I DIDN'T FIGHT IT!?

MION! DON'T LOSE TO A STUPID DEMON!

MION!

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?

I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CONQUER A DEMON.

I'M WEAK.

WHY ...!?

WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN ...?

MION... ...KUH... WHY...

I THOUGHT I HAD QUIETED THE DEMON AND THAT IT HAD GONE AWAY SOMEWHERE.

BUT THE TRUTH WAS DIFFERENT.

IT WAS ONLY SLEEPING INSIDE ME.

THE DEMON ATE AWAY AT ME AND TRIED TO SPUR ME TO VIOLENCE, BUT I HELD IT BACK WITH SENSE AND REASON.

IT WAS A VERY LONG TIME AGO THAT THE DEMON CAME TO LIVE INSIDE ME.

KEI-CHAN... YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY ...?

DO YOU REMEMBER? THE DOLL YOU GOT ON THE DAY OF THE GAME TOURNAMENT?

IT WAS...

AND A LITTLE THING CAUSED THE DEMON TO AWAKEN.

IF YOU HAD GIVEN THE DOLL TO ME BACK THEN, MAYBE THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE GONE CRAZY.

...BE-CAUSE OF YOU.

POTA (DRIP)

...SHION CRIED.

, BACK THEN...

I WAS JEALOUS BECAUSE THE PERSON SHE LOVED WAS ALIVE AND SO CLOSE TO HER.

THAT SMALL PIECE OF JEALOUSY AWAKENED THE DEMON SLEEPING IN MY HEART.

IF THAT WOULD QUIET MION'S DEMON.

DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?

YES... IN EXCHANGE, PROMISE ME TWO THINGS.

NOW, ARE YOU READY? I'M ABOUT TO GET STARTED.

NGH!

...NH!

YOU'RE KIDDING... RIGHT ...?

I'M MION.

YOU...EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS, YOU WORRY ABOUT SHION MORE THAN YOURSELF?

WHY AM I GETTING SO WORKED UP?

WHEN YOU'VE HURT ME UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED ...

...FORGIVE SHION.

SO YOU... DON'T THINK OF BEGGING FOR YOUR LIFE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

GIVE THAT BODY...BACK TO MION.

THE OTHER PROMISE IS YOU DISAPPEAR ONCE YOU'RE SATISFIED.

THAT'S TOO BAD ...

YOU SAID TWO AT THE BEGINNING. YOU DON'T GET ANY MORE.

MAKE THE THIRD ONE NOT TO KILL ME.

...CAN I CHANGE MY PROMISES FROM TWO TO THREE?

NOW I UNDER-STAND.

I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY WHY SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.

...I PROB-ABLY WON'T KEEP THOSE PROMISES, YOU KNOW? I'M A DEMON, AFTER ALL.

WELL, THEN THERE'LL BE NOTHING ANYBODY CAN DO.

NOW DO IT.

KEI-CHAN.

I COULD GRANT YOUR *THIRD* WISH.

EH?

YOUR FIRST WISH— TO SAVE SHION— THAT'S NO LONGER POS-SIBLE.

THE DEMON WILL KILL SHION. THAT'S ALREADY BEEN SET. I CAN'T STOP IT.

AND YOUR SECOND WISH— TO GIVE THIS BODY BACK TO MION—THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE TOO.

DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!

SHE'LL NEVER COME BACK...? DON'T SAY THOSE SAD THINGS!

TODAY WAS THE CUTOFF DATE. MION WON'T EVER COME BACK.

AFTER TODAY, I MAY LOOK LIKE ME, BUT THAT WILL BE A DEMON WITH MY FORM...

SU SSK

I'M SORRY...FOR DEFILING MION.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THE MION IN MY HEART WON'T CHANGE.

BUT FORGET ME...

IF YOU SEE ME AFTER TODAY, DON'T APPROACH ME.

BECAUSE I'LL BE THE DEMON POSSESSING MY CORPSE.

SHION. YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.

CREAK

GACHA (KACHAK)

NN...NNGH...

THANK YOU...

THANK YOU... NNH.

I ONLY KNOCKED OUT KEI-CHAN WITH THE STUN GUN.

THE POLICE ARE ALMOST HERE, SO HE'LL BE RELEASED.

BUT BE-FORE THAT ...

GUI (TUG)

BUT I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET, SHION.

WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE.

BA (YANK)

... TAKE OFF THOSE CLOTHES.

WE'RE TRAD-ING.

EH?

...I'M GIVING MION BACK TO YOU.

PLEASE, YOU GO FIRST.

WE'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR THE HIDDEN PASSAGE THAT'S SUPPOSEDLY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL.

GOOOOOO (WHOOOOSH)

GAKU (SHAKE)

GAKU (SHAKE)

SOO (SLOW)

GOKU (GULP)

SU (SSK)

ONEE...

...CHAN?

I SAVED KEI-CHAN, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.

AND YOU SAID I COULD KILL YOU INSTEAD, RIGHT?

AND I'M DRESSED AS SHION, SO KEI-CHAN WILL TESTIFY THAT I WAS THE VICTIM.

YOU'RE GOING TO FALL FROM HERE AND DIE, DRESSED AS MION.

IF YOU KILL ME...

...THAT WILL AVENGE SATOSHI?

WELL, THEY'LL PROBABLY FIGURE IT OUT WITH FINGER-PRINTS OR SOMETHING, BUT I'LL HAVE HIDDEN MYSELF SOMEWHERE BY THEN.

I'LL WAIT IN THE STONE CELL FOR THE POLICE TO COME HELP ME.

...ONEE...

...SA-TOSHI...

IF YOU KNOW THAT MUCH, THEN YOU MUST BE READY FOR IT.

FALL DOWN THERE AND APOLOGIZE TO SATOSHI.

...ISN'T...

OOOO WHOOO

OH? DIDN'T YOU SAY HE WAS?

YOU SAID YOU TOSSED HIM DOWN HERE.

PIKU (TWITCH)

IF HE WAS KILLED BY THE SONOZAKI FAMILY, THEN I THINK HE WOULD HAVE BEEN THROWN DOWN HERE.

...I DID SAY THAT.

...AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS WELL.

THIS IS GETTING COMPLI-CATED.

KUU (TUG)

TRY EXPLAIN-ING IT TO YOUR BIG SISTER IN A WAY THAT'S A LITTLE EASIER TO UNDER-STAND.

I...

...LOVED SATOSHI TOO.

FIG-URES.

HE WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME TO LOVE HIM, AFTER ALL.

SO... WHEN SATOSHI DISAP-PEARED, I WAS SO SAD AND ANGRY.

I DID A LOT OF INVESTI-GATING.

I... APPROACHED BATCHA... I WAS READY TO STRANGLE HER.

AND BATCHA TOLD ME.

THIS IS SOMETHING I WILL ONLY TELL THE NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY.

YOU MUST KEEP IT A SECRET.

...DID ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

THE SONOZAKI FAMILY...

...EVERYONE BELIEVED THAT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY WAS PULLING THE STRINGS.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WHEN THE MURDER HAPPENED AT THE DAM SITE...

AND IN REALITY, THEY DID USE UNLAWFUL METHODS TO PROTEST DURING THE DAM WAR.

IT'S TRUE THAT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY HAS A STRONG INFLUENCE IN THE UNDERWORLD THROUGH OUR FATHER'S CONNECTIONS AS A YAKUZA BOSS.

...SO EVERY-ONE BELIEVED, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THAT SHE WAS THE MASTERMIND.

AND BATCHA WOULD SMILE SUGGESTIVELY AND SAY SUSPICIOUS THINGS...

...A BLUFF THEY USED WHENEVER THERE WAS A CONVENIENT COINCIDENCE, THAT MADE IT LOOK LIKE THE SONOZAKIS HAD INSTIGATED THE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

BUT THAT WAS... AN ACT HANDED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS OF SONOZAKI FAMILY LEADERS...

OUR RELATIVES BELIEVED, "SURELY ORYOU INSTIGATED IT."

...BATCHA SMILED SUGGES-TIVELY.

WHEN THEY FOUND THE DISMEMBERED BODY OF THE DAM DIRECTOR...

...AND SATOSHI-KUN WENT MISSING...

...AND WHEN SATOSHI-KUN'S AUNT DIED...

...WHEN THE FURUDE COUPLE MET WITH UNNATURAL DEATHS...

WHEN THE HOJO COUPLE FELL FROM THE VIEWING PLATFORM...

...SUGGES-TIVELY.

...OF COURSE SHE SMILED...

SO YOU'RE SAYING THE SONOZAKIS WEREN'T INVOLVED !?

Y-YOU'RE LYING!!

EVERYONE BELIEVED THAT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY WAS CAUSING THE INCI-DENTS.

I DON'T THINK ...

ESPECIALLY ABOUT SATOSHI-KUN'S DISAPPEARANCE. SHE SAID SHE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

...THAT BATCHA WOULD LIE TO ME!

I MEAN, BATCHA LET YOU HAVE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SATOSHI-KUN!

YOU DID A GOOD JOB TEARING OFF YOUR FINGER-NAILS, SO SHE SAID SHE WOULD FORGET THE WHOLE THING!

YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CURSE SYSTEM TOO, DON'T YOU?

ONI-BABA DOESN'T HAVE TO GIVE ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTACK SATOSHI-KUN; SOMEONE WILL ANTICIPATE HER DESIRES AND DO IT ANYWAY— THAT'S HOW IT WORKS!!

BATCHA SAID SHE HAD BEEN LOOKING INTO...

...WHO WAS CAUSING OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE FOR A LONG TIME.

BUT...SHE COULDN'T FIND THEM.

IT'S A LIE, IT'S A LIE!

SO THEN WHO ERASED SATOSHI-KUN!?

WHO!? WHO!?

EVERYONE BELIEVES THAT IT'S SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE.

BUT THERE'S NO SUCH PERSON IN THE VILLAGE!!

...I DON'T KNOW...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT RIKA-CHAN WOULD DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

I THINK TOMITAKE WAS PROBABLY KILLED WITH THE SAME INJECTION. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

...I TOLD YOU THAT RIKA FURUDE CAME AT ME WITH A SYRINGE THAT WOULD MAKE ME SCRATCH MY THROAT OUT.

I THINK... THAT NEITHER SHION NOR ONI-BABA WAS LYING.

IN THAT CASE, ONI-BABA...

...DIDN'T HAVE AS STRONG A GRASP ON EVERYTHING ABOUT HINAMIZAWA AS WE THOUGHT SHE DID.

SHE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT TERRIBLE DRUG.

AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE FURUDE FAMILY WAS ACTUALLY CARRYING OUT THE CURSE.

THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING EITHER.

KIMIYOSHI BELIEVED TO THE END THAT THE SONOZAKIS WERE BEHIND IT ALL.

IS IT THE FURUDE FAMILY?

RIKA'S BEHAVIOR, THE ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO BLINDLY FOLLOW HER...

WAS A POWER CENTERED AROUND THE FURUDE FAMILY WORKING IN THE SHADOWS?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S UNTHINKABLE. IT'S ABSURD.

MR. AND MRS. FURUDE WERE BURIED BY THE CURSE.

IT CAN'T BE...

I'M ABOUT TO CLOSE THE CURTAIN, AND I STILL HAVE THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT THE DARK SECRETS OF HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE... IS THAT IT?

NOW THAT I'VE KILLED THE HEADS OF THE THREE FAMILIES...

IN OTHER WORDS...

SO....

...WHAT ABOUT MY REVENGE PLAN?

...LOTS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE?

DOES THIS MEAN I'VE KILLED...

YOU'RE GOOD, SHION.

HA...

SO AT THE VERY LAST SECOND, YOU'RE TRYING TO TURN MY REVENGE PLAY UPSIDE DOWN?

I... DIDN'T LET SA-TOSHI DIE.

ONEE-CHAN... BELIEVE ME...

ONEE-CHAN!

BELIEVE ME... PLEASE!

SU (SSK)

SHION...

SUU (FWOO)

ONEE-CHAN.

IF YOU REALLY ARE INNOCENT, THEN YOU CAN GO TO HEAVEN.

IF I WERE STILL SAYON'S BIG SISTER, MAYBE SHE WOULD HAVE MOVED MY HEART.

ONEE ...

BUT I AM A DEMON.

ONCE I'VE KILLED SHION, IT WILL BE FINISHED.
THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED.

IF I CAN'T ACCOMPLISH THAT...

...THEN WHAT IS MY EXISTENCE?

ZLR... (SLIP

KA (ZZT)

WHAT IS MY LIFE, A LIFE IN WHICH I THREW AWAY EVERYTHING TO AVENGE SATOSHI-KUN?

AT THE VERY END, YOU SAY THESE THINGS THAT MESS IT ALL UP.

BUT THAT WOULD MEAN EVERYTHING I'VE DONE...

...WASN'T REVENGE.
IT WASN'T ANYTHING.

IT MEANS I WAS JUST...

...POSSESSED BY THE FIFTH YEAR'S CURSE.

I CAN'T GO TO HEAVEN, SO I CAN'T TELL HIM I'M SORRY.

APOLOGIZE WHEN YOU SEE SATOSHI-KUN IN HEAVEN.

INSTEAD, I'LL GO ALL THE WAY TO THE BOTTOM-MOST DEPTHS...

...OF HELL.

I'LL SURVIVE UNTIL I CAN FIND A FITTING DEATH.

DISGRACEFULLY.

FINAL CHAPTER: HAPPY NOTEBOOK

JUNE 1983
A SERIES OF MURDERS BREAKS OUT IN HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE.

THAT WAS THE INSTANT SHE JUMPED.

YES. BY THE TIME MR. KASAI ENTERED THE ROOM, IT WAS DESERTED, AND THE DOOR TO THE BALCONY WAS OPEN.

VICTIMS: ORYOU SONOZAKI, KIICHIROU KIMIYOSHI...

MR. KASAI THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE JUMPED AND WENT TO THE GROUND FLOOR TO INVESTIGATE, BUT THERE WAS NO BODY. THAT WAS BECAUSE AT THAT TIME, SHE WAS UNCONSCIOUS ON THE ROOF.

AND DIED.

SHE FELL ONTO THE FIFTH FLOOR ROOF DIRECTLY UNDER THE BALCONY AND SUFFERED A CONCUSSION. AFTER THAT, SHE FELL AGAIN.

...RIKA FURUDE, SATOKO HOJO...

I DON'T THINK SO.

AND SHION SONOZAKI HAD ALREADY JUMPED AND WAS PASSED OUT ON A ROOF AT THAT TIME?

IT WAS RIGHT AROUND THAT TIME THAT KEIICHI MAEBARA WAS STABBED.

...MION SONOZAKI, KEIICHI MAEBARA...

...THEN, WHEN SHE WAS GOING BACK TO THE BALCONY, SHE SLIPPED AND FELL... PERHAPS?

SHE ESCAPED FROM THE BALCONY, STABBED KEIICHI...

SUSPECT: SHION SONOZAKI

THE SONOZAKI SISTERS WERE REVERSED.

...AND SHION WAS MION.

MION WAS SHION...

WE'VE SINGLED OUT THE KILLER, BUT I JUST CAN'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT THIS CASE.

SO IN THIS NOTEBOOK, MION AND SHION SHOULD BE SWITCHED.

IF YOU READ IT THAT WAY, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SATOSHI-KUN AND SHION-SAN.

WHEN THEY GAVE ONE THE TATTOO, THEY GOT IT WRONG AND DID IT BACKWARD.

AND APPARENTLY THERE WAS NO UNDOING IT.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF THIS WE CAN BELIEVE.

THE PART ABOUT RIKA FURUDE'S DEATH IS JUST TOO FISHY.

WELL, OF COURSE, JUST KNOWING THAT THE NAMES ARE SWITCHED DOESN'T MEAN IT WON'T DISRUPT THE INVESTIGATION.

DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT THE NOTES WERE ALL MIXED UP, AND IT COULD POSSIBLY HARM THE INVESTIGATION?

NOTEBOOK...? YOU MEAN THAT MYSTERY NOTEBOOK SOMEONE MAILED TO YOU, OOISHI-SAN?

IT'S THE JOURNAL OF A MADWOMAN.

WHEN I READ IT, I FELT LIKE IT MIGHT DRIVE *ME* INSANE.

WHEN I READ THE "I'M SORRY FOR BEING BORN" ON THE LAST PAGE, IT MADE *ME* WANT TO JUMP OFF A BALCONY.

...MAYBE IT'S A HAPPY JOURNAL.

...BUT...

SHION-SAN REALLY DID LOVE SATOSHI-KUN.

HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK THE NAME SATOSHI-KUN APPEARS IN THAT NOTEBOOK?

LIST OF PERSONS CONNECTED TO THE SERIES OF MURDERS IN HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE

■ KIICHIROU KIMIYOSHI
MURDERED BY SHION SONOZAKI ON JUNE 22, 1983.
CAUSE OF DEATH: STRANGULATION BY RESTRAINING DEVICE.

■ SATOKO HOJO
MURDERED BY SHION SONOZAKI ON JUNE 22, 1983.
CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOCK DUE TO LOSS OF BLOOD FROM STAB WOUNDS ALL OVER BODY.

■ MION SONOZAKI
MURDERED BY SHION SONOZAKI ON JUNE 22, 1983.
CAUSE OF DEATH: FELL DOWN A TUNNEL SHAFT.

■ KEIICHI MAEBARA
ATTACKED WITH A KNIFE BY SHION SONOZAKI ON JUNE 30, 1983.
SUSTAINED HEAVY INJURIES BUT RECOVERED STEADILY AFTER SURGERY. SUDDENLY DIED IN THE HOSPITAL ON JULY 3, 1983.
CAUSE OF DEATH: ACUTE HEART FAILURE.

■ SHION SONOZAKI
FELL FROM THE APARTMENT WHERE SHE WAS HIDING ON JUNE 30, 1983.
WANTED FOR THE SERIES OF MURDERS THAT STARTED ON JUNE 20, 1983, SHE FELL TO HER DEATH FROM THE APARTMENT IN WHICH SHE WAS HIDING ON THE 30TH OF THE SAME MONTH. DOCUMENTS WERE SUBMITTED BY THE PREFECTURAL POLICE TO THE PROSECUTOR,
STATING THAT THE SUSPECT FOR THE MURDER OF ORYOU SONOZAKI AND FIVE OTHERS HAD DIED.

■ TAMAE HOJO
BEATEN TO DEATH IN THE VILLAGE ON JUNE 20, 1982.
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE.

■ SATOSHI HOJO
WENT MISSING(?) FROM THE VILLAGE ON JUNE 24, 1982.
WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN.

■ JIROU TOMITAKE (REAL NAME UNKNOWN)
KILLED HIMSELF(?) IN THE VILLAGE ON JUNE 19, 1983.
DEATH RESEMBLED JUNE 22 MURDER OF RIKA FURUDE.

■ MIYO TAKANO
HANGED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF GIFU PREFECTURE ON JUNE 19, 1983.
CORPSE WAS BURNED UP. INVESTIGATION ONGOING.

■ ORYOU SONOZAKI
MURDERED BY SHION SONOZAKI ON JUNE 20, 1983.
CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOCK FROM A STUN GUN. THE CORPSE WAS HEAVILY DAMAGED AFTER DEATH. SEVERE LACERATIONS FOUND ON THE SCALP.

■ RIKA FURUDE
MURDERED BY SHION SONOZAKI(?) ON JUNE 22, 1983.
CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOCK DUE TO LOSS OF BLOOD FROM STAB WOUNDS ON THROAT. DEATH RESEMBLED THAT OF JIROU TOMITAKE ON JUNE 19. INVESTIGATION ONGOING.

KACH
KACH
TICK
HAAAH
HAAAH

HAAAH

HAAAH

I...

COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE

...OR A VISION OF MYSELF

SATOSHI-KUN

THE THING RENA HAD ONCE WARNED ME OF WAS NO LONGER ...

IT WAS NOW SHION'S GHOST.

ONEE... HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE?

YOU SAID YOU WOULD DIE RIGHT AWAY.

I'M WAITING FOR YOU.

THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL IS DARK AND COLD... I'M IN PAIN...IT HURTS...

DIE.

DIE!

PIKU (TWITCH)

PIKU

HURRY AND DIE!

BASA (FWOOSH)

AARGH! SHUT UP, SHION!!

KAKU

IT'S NOT FAIR, ONEE.

KAKU (SHAKE)

YOU DID ALL THAT, AND YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP LIVING?

YOU WAIT FOR A DEATH FITTING FOR YOU, BUT IT WILL NEVER COME!

STOP TALKING! YOU'RE JUST A GHOST!!

DON'T USE MY MOUTH TO TALK WHEN-EVER YOU WANT !!

WHEEZE

WE'RE EVEN TOGETHER IN DEATH.

WHEEZE

WE SISTERS ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER.

SO YOU SEE?

COUGH

COUGH

WHEEZE

WHEEZE

I CAME FOR YOU.

HUFF!

HUFF!

HAN HAM

WAAAH!

DAH (DASH)

GACHA (CLICK)

DON

DON

DON

BAM

BUT LOOK, I WON'T DISAPPEAR FOR NOTHING.

SU (SGK)

...WOULD BE FOR YOU TO CURSE ME TO DEATH.

YORI STAGGER

...I GET IT, SHION. A DEATH FITTING FOR ME ...

IT'S NOT FAIR FOR THE BOY YOU LOVED TO SURVIVE!!

DAMN YOU, SHION.

GEH

GEH

GEH

GEH

GEH

GEH

THROW A ROCK!

WAKE HIM UP!

KEIICHI SAID HIS ROOM IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR.

LOOK, THERE IT IS. MAEBARA MANOR.

GEH

GEH

GEH

GEH

GEH

MION!

I KNEW IT.

IT'S ALWAYS SHION. NO— FAIR...

I'M JEALOUS...
I'M JEALOUS...

I'M JEALOUS, KEI-CHAN.

I WANT ...

I WANT ...

...SATOSHI-KUN...

...TO GIVE ME A DOLL TOO...!

HAAH... HAAH. I MADE IT.

NOW I'VE KILLED EVERYONE I WANTED TO KILL!!!

I'VE GOTTEN REVENGE ON EVERY-ONE WHO HURT SATOSHI-KUN! GYO-GO-GO-GA-GYA!!

I DID IT. I DID IT!

GEH GYA GYA GI GI GEH!

COMPLI-MENT ME, SATOSHI-KUN!! PAT MY HEAD!

YES.

THIS IS ALL A BAD DREAM.

I MEAN, I'M IN MY ROOM LIKE ALWAYS, JUST HAVING A NIGHTMARE.

PA (BLINK)

//'..' PA

O

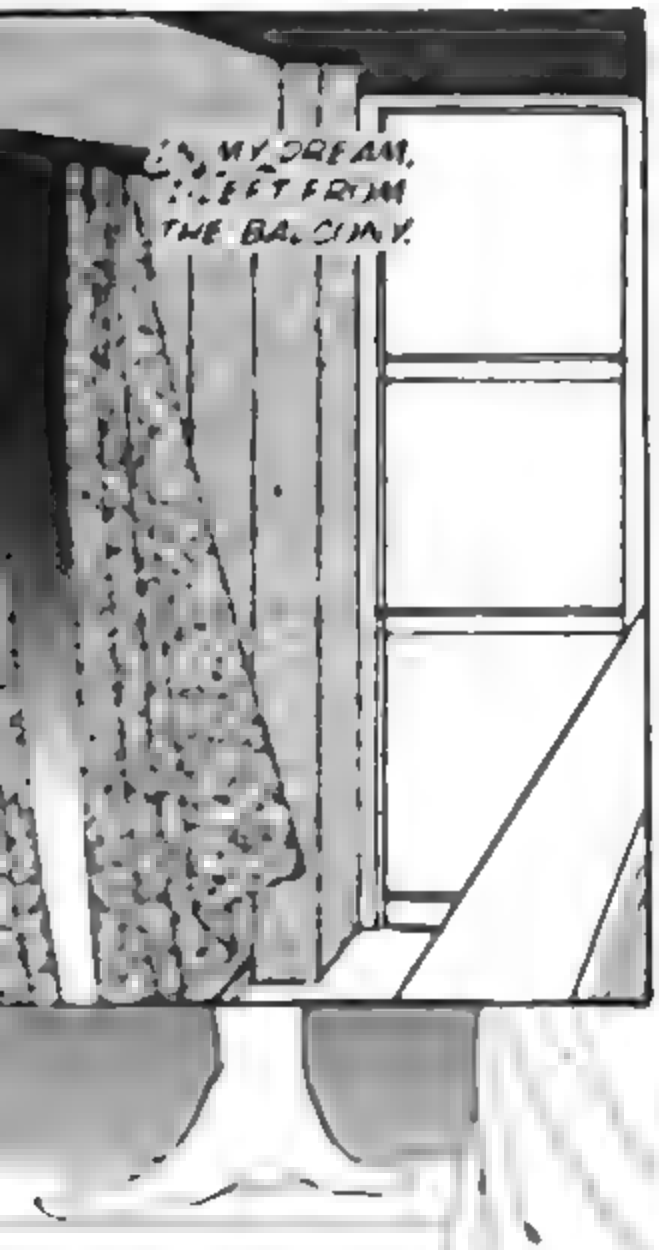
//' PA

...WHERE...

...AM I?

SO THEN...

THAT'S RIGHT.



THE DOOR IS LOCKED.

SO I HAVE TO GO BACK IN THROUGH THE BALCONY.

TA
(TAP)

TA

...NN...?

...WAH.

GO
(WHAM)

AH... I...

JIWA (COZE) ジワ

...TRIED TO GET TO THE BALCONY FROM THE FIRE ESCAPE...

...AND FELL ON THE ROOF OF A ROOM TWO OR THREE FLOORS DOWN...

...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

TO THINK I'D LAND...

WHAT...

...WAS MY LIFE?

...THE NEXT HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

YOU ARE MION SONOZAKI...

...OF BOTH THIS FAMILY AND HINAMIZAWA.

ONE DAY, YOU WILL BE IN CHARGE...

YOU WAIT UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.

SHION.

I'LL BE PLAYING ON THE HILL OUT BACK BY MYSELF, WAITING FOR YOU.

ONEE...

I'LL BE WAITING, SO YOU'D BETTER COME. PROMISE?

ONEE-CHAN?

...THERE SOON.

I'LL BE...

...ALL RIGHT...

...SHION.

WHERE DID I MAKE THE WRONG CHOICE IN LIFE ...?

I WONDER WHERE I WENT WRONG.

...AND TAKE ME TO THE HELL I DESERVE.

NOW SMASH MY HEAD OPEN...

SATOSHI-KUN...

...I WANT YOU TO PAT MY HEAD AGAIN.

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR "HRRM"...

...ONE MORE TIME.

I... DIDN'T EVEN UNDER-STAND THAT.

SATOSHI-KUN COULD HAVE EN-TRUSTED HIS DEAR LITTLE SISTER TO ANYONE...

...BUT HE EN-TRUSTED HER TO ME.

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

I'LL WAIT WITH SATOKO UNTIL YOU DO.

YES...

...BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL COME BACK, SATOSHI-KUN.

YOU KNOW, I...

SATOSHI-KUN REMINDED ME.

YES. I ALREADY KNOW.

TAKE CARE ...

...OF SATO-KO FOR ME.

...IN SUCH A MEANINGLESS LIFE?

WHO WOULD LOOK FOR ANY MEANING...

IF I HADN'T BEEN BORN, I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE THROUGH THIS.

I WISH I NEVER HAD BEEN.

...WAS I BORN?

WHY...

I'M ASKING FOR TOO MUCH.

I'M SORRY...

IF I HADN'T BEEN BORN...

...NO ONE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNHAPPY.

THANK YOU...

...FOR BEING NICE TO SOMEONE LIKE ME.

...HOW TO BE IN LOVE.

...FOR TEACHING SOMEONE LIKE ME...

THANK YOU...

SOMEONE LIKE ME...

SOMEONE LIKE ME...

I'M...
SORRY.

EVERYONE...

HRRM...

EH ...?

I LOVE YOU.

GOOD-BYE...

SATOSHI-KUN, IF YOU...

...GIVE ME THE SAME CHANCE ONE MORE TIME...

...I'LL NEVER MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN.

IT'S LUNCH-TIME!

LUNCH-TIME!!

RENA HAS MEATBALLS FOR LUNCH! SHE DOES!

NOW GET THE DESKS TO-GETH-ER!

SOUNDS GOOD. THIS OLD MAN'LL HAVE SOME TOO!

WE'RE STICKING THEM TOGETHER, SIR! STICK!

I HOPE NONE OF YOU THINKS YOU'LL GET A SINGLE BITE!!

HO! HO!

HO!

MEATBALLS ARE MY VERY FAVORITE FOOD!

BAN (TA-DAA)

GORO

GORO (ROLL)

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ENOUGH VEGETABLES, SATOKO! SO I HAVE SPECIALLY PREPARED A PUMPKIN LUNCH FOR YOU!

WE CAN'T BE HAVING THAT!

KII (DASH) IY

I HATE PUMPKINS!

SATOSHI-KUN IS DEPENDING ON ME, SO I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING YOUR HEALTH!

GUWAN (SPIN)

KUSU (SNICKER)

GUWAN

COME BACK HERE, SATO-KO!

THAT'S RIGHT.

I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS IN A CAR ACCIDENT OVER A YEAR AGO,

AND I'LL FINALLY WAKE UP.

I KEPT THINKING HOW NICE IT WOULD BE

IF EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED

UP TO TODAY HAS BEEN A DREAM.

WHEN I OPEN MY EYELIDS...

SATOSHI-KUN, WHO'S CARED FOR ME THE WHOLE TIME,

WILL BE THERE LOOKING INTO MY EYES...

THAT'S WHY I WROTE THIS...

BELIEVING THAT IT WILL BECOME A DREAM.

AH-HA-HA, I GUESS THAT REALLY WOULD BE TOO PERFECT.

IT'S A LONG—A RIDICULOUSLY LONG—DREAM.

AND IT WOULD MEAN I'D HAVE BEEN ASLEEP FOR OVER A YEAR.

BUT...

...IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?

TO MAKE IT INTO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

IT'S OKAY, RIGHT...?

I'M SORRY...FOR BEING BORN.

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY

EYE OPENING ARC

FIN

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ABOUT THE "EYE OPENING ARC" A LONG TWO YEARS

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

AS YOU HAVE SEEN, THE "EYE OPENING ARC" IS PLACED OPPOSITE THE "COTTON DRIFTING ARC." THAT BEING THE CASE, I THINK IT WOULD BE INTERESTING IN MANY WAYS IF YOU WOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THIS ONE AFTER YOU'VE READ THE "COTTON DRIFTING ARC."

WHEN I DID THE ORIGINAL, ONE ARC WOULD COME OUT EVERY SIX MONTHS, SO THERE WAS A TWO-YEAR PERIOD BETWEEN THE SECOND ARC, THE "COTTON DRIFTING ARC," AND THE FIFTH ARC, THE "EYE OPENING ARC."

DURING THAT TIME, I RECEIVED A LOT OF E-MAILS FROM READERS WHO HAD SEEN THE "COTTON DRIFTING ARC" AND WERE WRITING THEIR MESSAGES UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT MION WAS THE MURDERER, SO I REMEMBER IT BEING A VERY LONG TWO YEARS WHERE I WAS THINKING, "ARGH, I WANNA PUBLISH THE 'EYE OPENING ARC' SOON AND CLEAR MION'S NAME!" NOW THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO CLEAR UP THE FALSE CHARGES AGAINST MION, I'M A LITTLE RELIEVED (LAUGH).

THE SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE DARK SIDE OF THE VILLAGE THAT CENTER AROUND THE SONOZAKI FAMILY WILL BE CARRIED OVER INTO THE NEXT STORY, THE "ATONEMENT ARC." I HOPE YOU WILL ALL CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE MYSTERIES OF HINAMIZAWA IN THE ANSWER ARCS OF "HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY."

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING THE LAST VOLUME OF THE MANGA VERSION OF THE "EYE OPENING ARC."

IT IS NOW TIME FOR ME TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO MY BELOVED SHION AND MY BELOVED "HIGURASHI." I MADE IT TO THE END, AGONIZING THE WHOLE TIME AND BEING HELPED ALONG BY THE STRONG ENERGY OF THE ORIGINAL SERIES.

I PRAY FOR A FUTURE IN WHICH SHION DOESN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES, A FUTURE WHERE EVERYONE CAN LIVE IN HAPPINESS WITH SMILES ON THEIR FACES.

CREATOR AND SUPERVISOR RYUKISHI07-SENSEI, BT-SAMA, SAKURA YATA-SAMA, MAHIRO TAKANA-SAMA, EKO SHIRAYUKI-SAMA, KASHI MOCHIZUKI-SAMA, OGAWA-SAMA, KOIZUMI-SAMA, AND EVERYONE WHO WAS KIND ENOUGH TO READ THIS BOOK, TRULY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
EYE OPENING ARC ④

RYUKISHI07
Yutori Houjyou

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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